JACK SALEM IN THE CITY OF ICE

FASHION VICTIM

STORMS IN THE CITY OF ICE CAN LAST FOR DAYS

FOR WEEKS

IT'S TOO COLD TO SNOW, BUT GALE-FORCE WINDS PICK UP WHAT SNOW THERE IS AND BLAST IT AROUND THE GLOBE. NO ONE CAN SURVIVE OUTSIDE DURING SUCH A STORM, AND THE CITY'S INHABITANTS HAVE TO WAIT IT OUT, HOPING THE WINDS END BEFORE STARVATION SETS IN.

IN A STORM'S AFTERMATH, A DEATHLY STILLNESS HANGS OVER THE CITY.

SOUNDS CARRY

~SSCRAPE~

CLICK

AND A NONHUMAN'S SHARP EARS CAN PICK UP THE PROVERBIAL PIN DROP

An exercise in gratuitous violence by:
Roz Gibson & Scott A.H. Ruggels
Story, layout, Pencils, inks — Layout, pencils

Agora drawn after Tezuka, with all due respect and apologies.

Puf the Angry Pallas'Cat
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CRACK!

SHIT!!

WE CAN STILL GET'M

NOT WHEN HE KNOWS WE'RE HERE

I DON'T WANT HIM COMING UP BEHIND US

BETTER TELL KOZMINSKI IT'S TIME TO GO TO PLAN "B"

C'MON

KURRRR...I'VE NEVER SEEN A BOLT LIKE *THAT* BEFORE

THIS WASN'T MEANT TO KILL

THEY WERE TRYING TO CRIPPLE ME.

THIS WOULD HAVE BROKEN MY LEG, OR AT LEAST KEPT ME FROM RUNNING

HUMANS GETTING YOU BACK FOR MALADON?

MAYBE

I DIDN'T THINK SHE HAD ANY SUPPORTERS AMONG THE OTHER HUMANS

THIS PART OF THE CITY IS OFF-LIMITS TO THEM

THERE HAS TO BE A BETTER REASON THEY'D LEAVE MONKEYTOWN THAN REVENGE FOR MALADON

GO ASK AGORA, THEN

THIS *IS* HIS TERRITORY

EXACTLY WHAT I WAS PLANNING TO DO

THE NEXT DAY

AGORA CONTROLS THE LARGEST TERRITORY IN THE CITY, WHERE MOST OF THE MAMMALS AND BIRDS LIVE, INCLUDING JACK AND HARPY

WHILE NOT A MEMBER OF AGORA'S GANG, JACK HAS OCCASIONALLY DONE PAID HITS OR REVENGE ATTACKS AGAINST VARIOUS PEOPLE WHO HAVE CROSSED THE GANG LEADER.

IT NEVER HURTS TO BE ON GOOD TERMS WITH THE MAJOR NONHUMAN POWER IN THE CITY

GREETINGS MR. SALEM

IT'S ALWAYS SO GOOD TO SEE YOU

YOU REALLY SHOULD STOP BY MORE OFTEN!

CAN I OFFER YOU SOME ENTERTAINMENT?

STRAIGHT FROM THE LAST SHIP IN

THE GIRL HAS HAD SOME USE, BUT THE BOY HASN'T BEEN TOUCHED

I IMAGINE YOU DO QUITE WELL AT, UMMM, TEACHING THE NEW ARRIVALS THE INS AND OUTS OF THE CITY, EH?

THIS IS STRICTLY A BUSINESS VISIT

OF COURSE
ALWAYS BUSINESS BEFORE PLEASURE

ALLOW ME TO AT LEAST OFFER YOU THIS

I'LL BET YOU HAVEN'T SEEN ONE OF THOSE SINCE YOU GOT HERE, HMMM?

NOW WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

YESTERDAY SOMEONE TOOK A SHOT AT ME---

WITH THIS---

.TWO HUMANS.

THEY WERE WAITING FOR ME, CLOSE BY WHERE I LIVE

VERY DEEP IN MY TERRITORY. HMMMM

I WANT TO KNOW WHO THEY ARE, AND WHY THEY'RE AFTER ME!

GEE!

I CAN'T *IMAGINE* WHY ANYONE WOULD WANT TO KILL YOU!!

PUF

WHAT A SHOCK!

QUIET PUF!

HISSSS

HUMANS STRAYING FROM MONKEYTOWN

VERY SERIOUS BUSINESS

IT COULD BE REVENGE FOR MALADON

MALADON..... YES...

THAT REMINDS ME

YOU SHOULD NOT HAVE AGREED TO HIT MALADON AND FENRIS WITHOUT MY OKAY

UPSETS THE BALANCE OF POWER AND SUCH

DO I MAKE MYSELF CLEAR, MR. SALEM?

MAKE ME UP A LIST OF WHO I SHOULD LEAVE ALONE

FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

HISSS!!!

YOU SHOW SOME RESPECT!!

CALM PUF

I DOUBT THE SKIN MONKEYS WOULD WANT REVENGE FOR MALADON

THE MINUTE SHE TIED WITH FENRIS SHE WAS A TRAITOR, HMMYES?

I'M SURE THEY HAVE A MUCH MORE.. LOGICAL REASON FOR VIOLATING MY TERRITORY

OF COURSE THAT INFORMATION WON'T COME CHEAP. HUMAN INFORMANTS TO PAY.EXPENSES THAT ARE INCURRED.

SPARE ME THE LINE

I CAN PAY STANDARD RATE

OR YOU GET YOUR NEXT HIT FREE

YOUR CHOICE

CONSIDER IT DONE

COME BACK IN TWO DAYS AND I'LL HAVE THE INFORMATION YOU WANT

I THINK YOU KNOW THE WAY OUT

PLEASURE DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU, MR. SALEM

WALKING ATTITUDE!!

HUSH

YOU KNOW WHO IT IS?

THE SKINNERS, ALMOST CERTAINLY

HISSS!!!

THEM!!

HOW DARE THEY COME HERE!

MONSTERS!

THEY MUST HAVE BEEN OFFERED A *VERY* LARGE SUM TO RISK VIOLATING MY TERRITORY

THEY'LL DESERVE WHATEVER SALEM DOES TO THEM

BUT WHAT IF THEY KILL HIM?

HE'S THE BEST ENFORCER YOU HAVE!

JUST THREATENING TO SEND HIM AFTER SOMEONE IS USUALLY ENOUGH TO GET THEM TO PAY UP

BEARY

BUT I DON'T HAVE HIM, PUF

HE WON'T JOIN MY CLAN, SO HE WON'T GET MY PROTECTION UNLESS HE PAYS FOR IT LIKE EVERYONE ELSE

BUT *HUMANS--!*

IF HE CAN'T HANDLE A FEW HUMANS, THEN HE'S NOT THE FIGHTER I THOUGHT HE WAS, AND HE'S NO USE TO ME

SO IF THEY *DO* KILL HIM--?

THEN WE GO TO KOZMINSKI AND DEMAND A VERY HIGH PERCENTAGE OF WHAT THEY GOT FOR HIM

TO COMPENSATE US FOR THE LOSS OF SUCH A VALUABLE ENFORCER, OF COURSE!

SO WHAT'D HE SAY?

HE KNOWS WHO IT IS, THE FAT FUCK

HE JUST WANTS TO SQUEEZE ME FOR MORE PAYMENT

GREEDY SHIT

SCREE!!

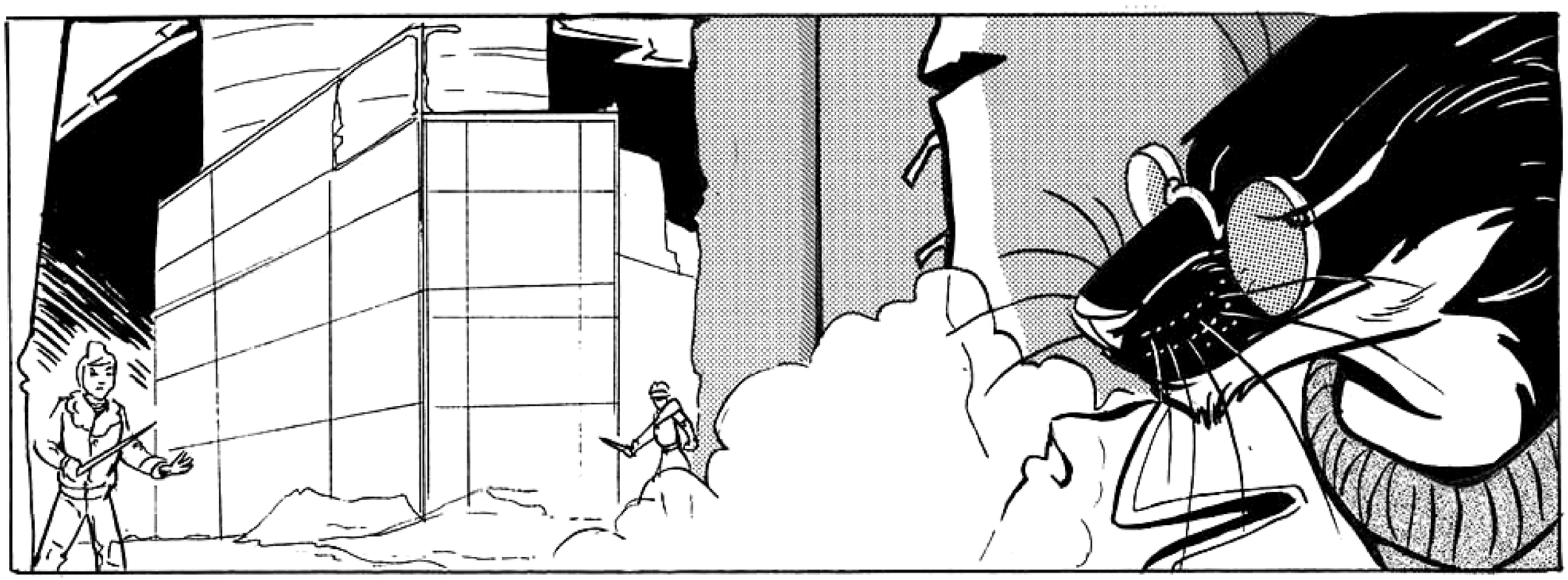
WHAT'D YOU *EXPECT* FROM HIM?!

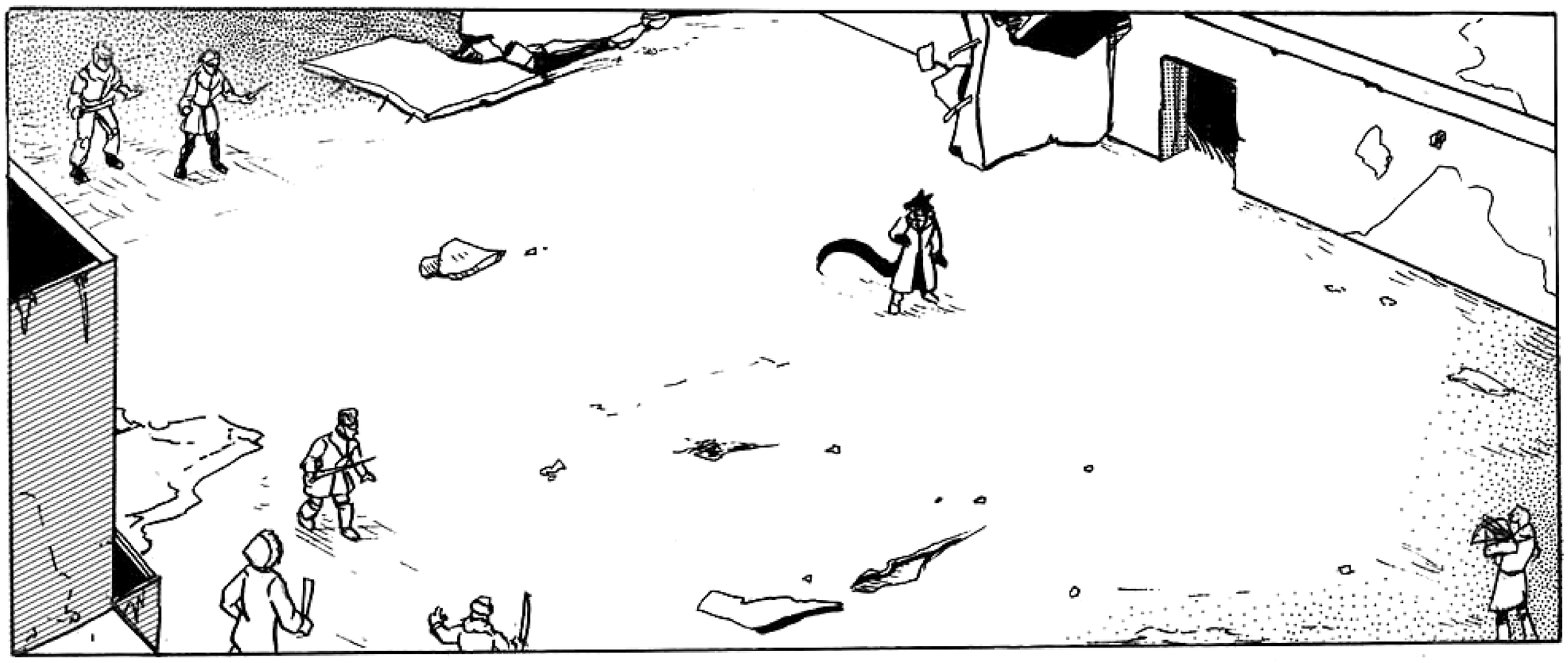
GROWL

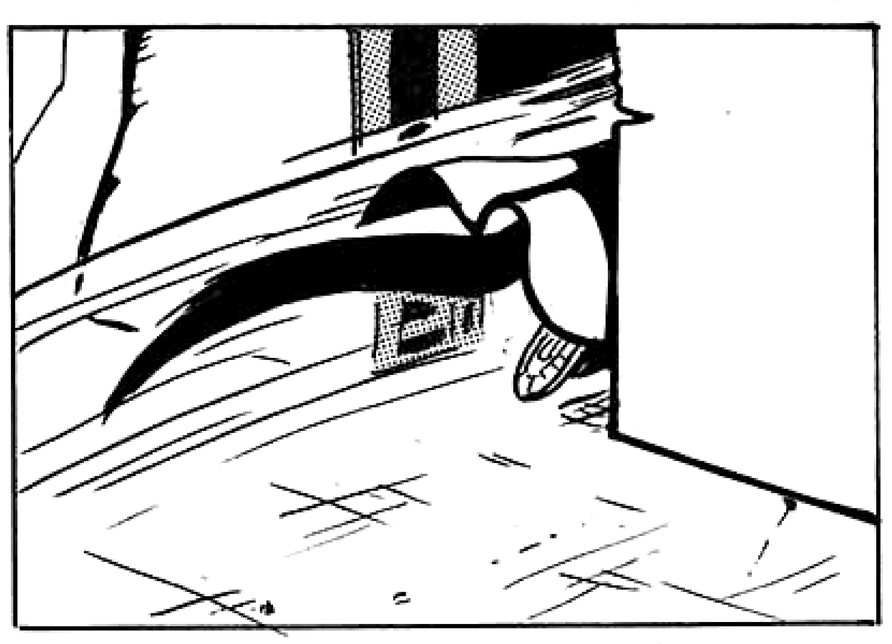
ERGH.. OKAY, FORGET ABOUT AGORA FOR NOW

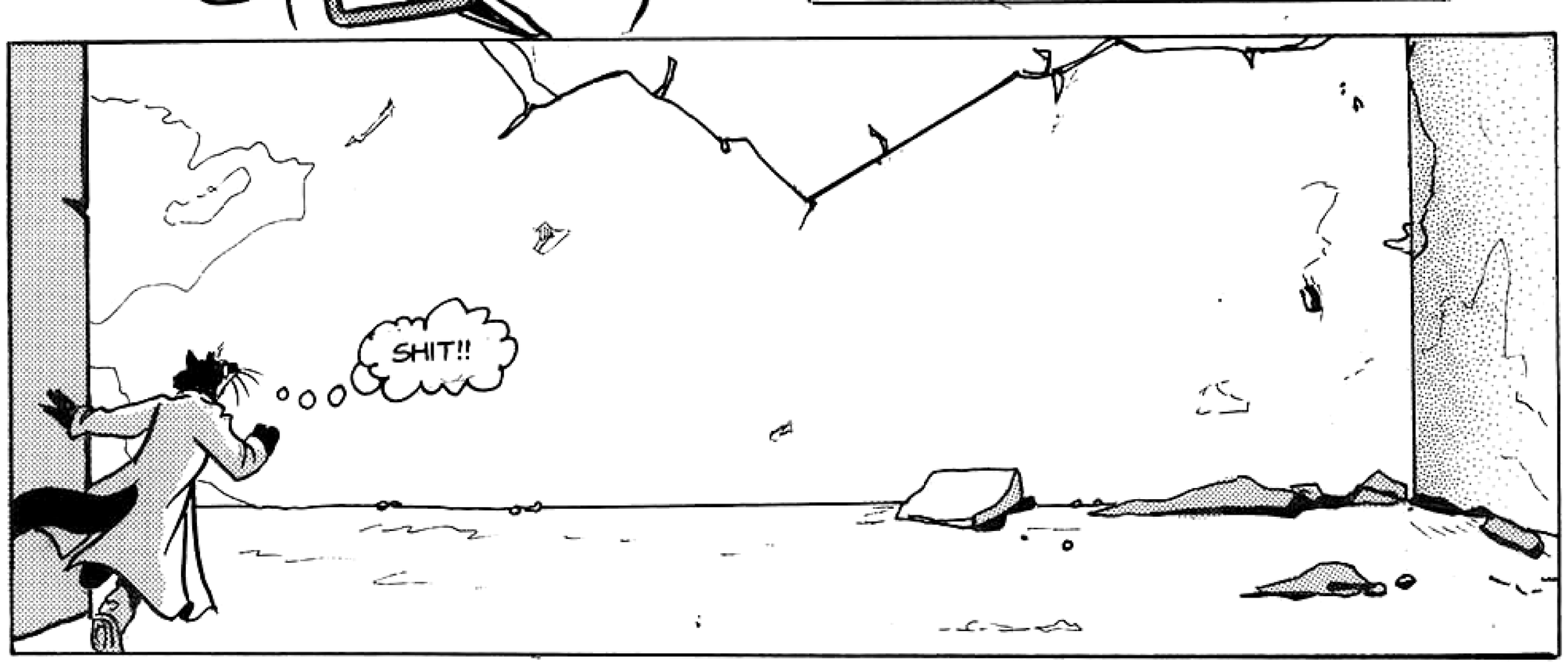
THERE'S A GOOD CHANCE THOSE HUMANS WILL TRY TO HIT ME AGAIN ON THE WAY BACK

THIS IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO DO---








SHIT!!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE MANAGED TO GET YOURSELF INTO A BIT OF A CORNER, MR. SALEM

!

I'LL GIVE YOU THIS ONE CHANCE TO SURRENDER - AND COME WITH US PEACEFULLY

BEFORE THINGS GET..

UGLY

STILL NOT ATTACKING

THEY WANT ME ALIVE FOR SOME REASON

SSNNARLL

THEIR MISTAKE

GIVE UP!!

YOU CAN'T BEAT US ALL!!

SNARL

RRR

OH SHIT! HE'S GONNA RUSH US!!

TAKE HIM OUT NOW!!

HAH HAH!!

GOAL!!

≥GASP!≤

AIEEEEEE!!

OH NO!!

LOOK!

LOOK!!

SHIT!

AHHHH

AAGGGG

SHOOT!!!

NO!

YOU'LL MAKE HER DROP HIM!

HAH HAH HAH!

HELP!

GUYS!!

AIEEE!!

BAWK!

FUCKING SHIT!

TWUNNG

HELPLESS TO DO MORE, THE HUMANS CAN ONLY WATCH AS HARPY VANISHES

THE SCREAMING STOPS WITH A CHILLING ABRUPTNESS

LET'S GO

THERE'S NOTHING MORE WE CAN DO HERE

CHET KNEW THE RISKS WHEN HE CAME WITH US

VASSEY, YOU KEEP WATCH FOR THAT DAMN BIRD

AND ANY *OTHER* ANIMALS!

YES SIR

HE'S OUT COLD

JUST A BIG BUMP, NO BROKE SKIN

THANK GOD FOR THAT, AT LEAST

ARE WE GONNA TRY AND RECOVER CHET?

HIS ROCKET ALONE IS WORTH---

NO. WE HAVE TO GET MOVING BEFORE AGORA'S PEOPLE FIND US

SHIT. I WAS HOPING HE COULD WALK OUT

WE CAN'T WAIT. WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CARRY HIM

MOTHER FUCK. WE CAN'T GO BACK THE WAY WE CAME WITH A LOAD LIKE THAT

DON'T GET TOO COMFORTABLE. THERE'S STILL LOTS MORE WORK TO DO

YAWWWN

THERE'S OLD PAPERS YOU NEED TO LOOK THROUGH

I ALSO NEED YOU TO CHECK SOME FOOTNOTES FROM CHAPTER 7

ERF!

YOU AND YOUR OLD PAPERS!

THE DUST MAKES ME SNEEZE

FLOP!!!

I NEED STATISTICS ON 19TH THRU 21ST CENTURY FUR TRADE, AND THAT'S NOT ON THE NET

FURRR TRADE

SOME OTHER SKIN MONKEY TERM I DON'T KNOW?

I TOLD YOU NOT TO USE THAT TERM AROUND ME!

THEY'RE APES, NOT MONKEYS.

GRUNT

IF YOU MUST USE SLURS, CALL THEM NAKED APES!

FUR TRADE?

HOW CAN THEY TRADE SOMETHING THEY DON'T HAVE?

THUMP

THAT'S BECAUSE THEY TAKE IT!

THEY TAKE IT FROM SILLY, ARROGANT ANIMALS LIKE *YOU*, MR. SABLE-FUR

HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO

NOT *NOW!*

YOU THINK SO?

WITH A COAT LIKE *YOURS*, I THINK YOU'D FETCH A VERY HIGH PRICE

VERY UNUSUAL COLORING FOR A SABLE

FROM MY DAD. HOUSECAT GENES

YOU'RE TALKING NONSENSE

HUMANS DON'T DO STUFF LIKE THAT ANYMORE

AFTER ALL YOUR WORK ON THE BOOK, YOU STILL BELIEVE THAT?

YOU DON'T THINK I KNOW WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT?

YOU DON'T KNOW HALF THE THINGS I'VE SEEN

AND I KNOW THEY WOULD PAY TOP DOLLAR FOR *YOUR* FUR!

SUCH TEXTURE!

IF IT DIDN'T KNOW BETTER I'D SAY YOU WERE FLIRTING WITH ME!

PURR! IF I WAS 40 YEARS YOUNGER, AND YOU WERE A BIT SMALLER, I'M SURE WE COULD HAVE WORKED SOME-THING OUT!

GOODY

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY WOULD WANT ANYONE'S FUR

THEY THINK ALL NONHUMANS ARE INFERIORS. WHY WOULD THEY WANT SOMETHING LIKE THAT FROM US?

YOU'RE NOT THAT NAIVE, DEAR

IT'S A STATUS SYMBOL TO THEM, LIKE A NEW VID SYSTEM WOULD BE TO US

I *SAW* IT IN THE CITY!

THEY WOULD COLLECT AND COMPETE FOR THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PELTS. THEY'D SHOW THEM OFF TO OTHER HUMANS, OR TO ANIMALS, TO SCARE US

BUT THAT WAS 50 YEARS AGO!

NO!

IT'S STILL GOING ON!

WHY DO YOU THINK I HAD YOU DO ALL THE SPECIES STATISTICS OF PEOPLE MISSING NEAR THE REPUBLIC BORDER?

THERE'S AN UNDERGROUND MARKET

I'D LIKE TO SEE ANYONE TRY THAT WITH ME!

I'D SHOVE THEIR GUTS BACK DOWN THEIR FUCKING THROAT!

DON'T UNDERESTIMATE HUMANS, NOT EVER!

NOTHING WILL STOP THEM FROM GETTING WHAT THEY WANT

YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME!!

DO YOU UNDERSTAND?!

GOD, THIS IS INCREDIBLE

I'VE NEVER FELT ANYTHING SO SOFT!

NO WONDER THEY'RE WILLING TO PAY SO MUCH

DON'T FORGET THAT PRICE DEPENDS ON US GETTING HIM BACK ALIVE AND UNMARKED, PANTY BOY

--TAKES US STRAIGHT PAST AGORA'S HQ. THERE HAS TO BE ANOTHER WAY

≥SNERK≤

WE HAVE TO GO THAT WAY IF WE'RE CARRYING HIM

LET'S TRY TO GET HIM AWAKE THEN

WHAT IF WE CAN'T?

=GASP=

?!!

EEAAUGGH!!

CHIRP?

AAHHHH!!

SHIT!!

GET'M OFF!!

WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

THAT WON'T WORK!

I CAN'T BUDGE IT!!

COVER HIS NOSE!

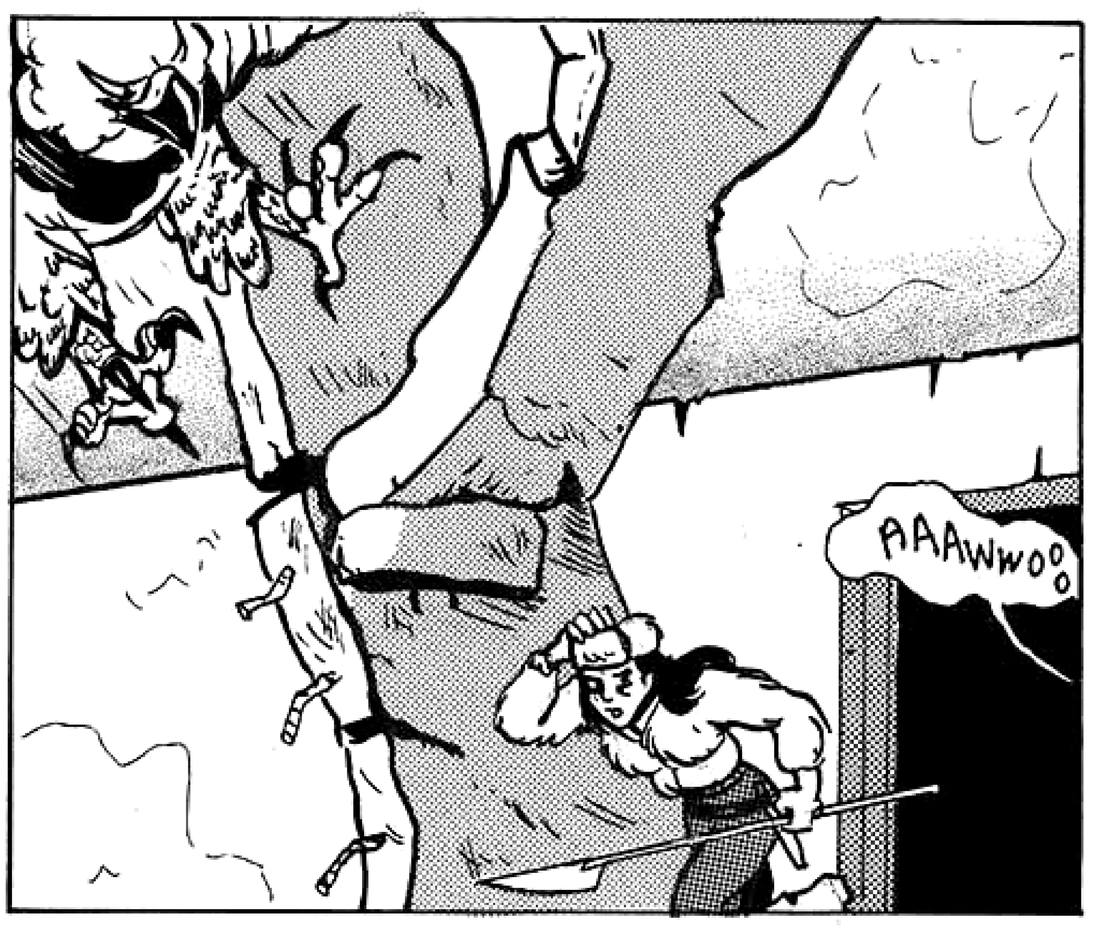
DON'T BREAK THE SKIN, DAMMIT!!

-GASP-

GET HIM TIED UP!!
AHHH!!

YOU STUPID FUCK!!
WHAT THE HELL WERE YOU DOING SO CLOSE TO HIM?!
MARCH?
NNGG

WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN HERE?!
OH!
GET BACK TO YOUR POST!!


AAAWWOO

EEEEE

NO!

NO!!

IF YOU WANT HER BACK ALIVE, HUMANS

I'LL SEE YOU AT MY ROOOSSSTT

AIEEE!

VASSEY!!

LET THE FUCKING BIRD HAVE HER

THIS HAS COST TOO MUCH ALREADY!

AND WHO'S GONNA TELL KOZMINSKI WE LET THAT BIRD EAT VASSEY?

YOU?!

WHAT'S HE GONNA DO WHEN WE COME BACK WITHOUT CHET *OR* VASSEY, AND MARCH CRIPPLED?

DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT PLANNING TO LEAVE VASSEY

KOZMINSKI WON'T SAY SHIT IF WE BRING HIM BACK SALEM, AND THAT FUCKING BIRD'S *HEAD!*

MARCH'S HAND IS BAD. HE'S PROBABLY GONNA LOSE MOST OF HIS FINGERS

MAYBE THE WHOLE HAND

SUNNUVA BITCH

TRY TO KEEP' IT ELEVATED

WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO GET THE BUYERS TO TAKE HIM TO A HEALING MACHINE ON THE BASE

IF WE BRING BACK THEIR GOODS THE WAY THEY WANT!

LASH

AND DON'T THINK ANYTHING THAT BIRD DOES IS GOING TO SAVE *YOU!!*

GRROWLL

I'M GONNA WATCH WHEN THEY PEEL YOU

AND I'M GONNA MAKE SURE YOU'RE ***ALIVE*** WHEN THEY DO IT!

JUDY, VALMIK-- YOU STAY HERE WITH MARCH AND SALEM

IF YOU SEE ANY ANIMALS SNIFFING AROUND, CLEAR OUT FAST!

AND LEAVE SALEM?

HE CAN WALK

DRAG HIM BY HIS FUCKING TAIL IF YOU HAVE TO!

RICARDO

CRISSCROSS

LET'S GO GET VASSEY

YOU'RE WITH ME

YOU *BETTER* HOPE THEY COME FOR YOU!!

THEY DON'T COME, AND I'M GETTING A SECOND HELPING OF *SKIN MONKEY!!*

NO

HELLO!

BIRD!

WE'RE HERE TO TALK!

AH!

THEY DIDN'T TIE THESE TOO TIGHT

I GUESS THEY DIDN'T WANT TO *DAMAGE* THE *MERCHANDISE!*

I SHOULD BE ABLE TO GET THROUGH THEM IN A MINUTE, IF FEATHER-BRAIN CAN KEEP THE OTHERS BUSY

RRRIIPP

I WANT MY JACK BACK!!

BRING HIM HERE AND I'LL LET THE GIRL GO

I'M SURE WE CAN COME TO SOME MUTUALLY SATISFYING AGREEMENT!!

I'LL BE SATISFIED WHEN I GET HIM BACK!!

SKREE!!

LET ME TALK HER DOWN HERE, THEN SHOOT HER!

GOT IT

GOT IT!!

I WOULDA EXPECTED VASSEY TO DO SOMETHIN' THAT DUMB, NOT YOU

SHUT UP, ASSHOLE

--AND I WANT TO EAT EVERY DAY, AND NOT JUST THAT SOY PROTEIN KAKA THEY GIVE US AT THE EXCHANGE--!!

AND I WANT SOMEBODY TO HAVE SEX WITH EVERY DAY, AND NOT A HUMAN!! I WANT SOMEONE WITH NICE CHIRPY SOFT FUR LIKE JACK HAS---

I DON'T BELIEVE THIS!

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING AS LONG AS SHE'S UP THERE WITH VASSEY

ARRRR

AHH!!

CRUNCH

SHIT!!

AARGHH

OH GOD!!

SSNNARLL!

AIEEEE!!

AARGH!!

GOT TO FIND THE OTHERS!

RRRR

RRAARR

GASP!

THAT WAS MINE

DON'T THINK I'M TRYIN' TO HELP *YOU*, BLACKIE!

YOU *STUPID*, TO GET CAUGHT!

OHHHH

WHY ARE YOU HERE?

DID AGORA SEND YOU?

I DON'T LET NO FUCKING HUMANS KILL ANY ANIMAL IN THIS TERRITORY --EVEN *YOU!!*

I GOT SENT HERE FOR KILLING HUMANS, AND THAT'S WHAT I'M GONNA DO!

AGORA WON'T KNOW IF I KILL'M OR YOU DO

YOU TELL THAT BLOATED FUCK HE ISN'T GETTING ONE SCRAP FROM ME!

YOU WANT TO KILL HUMANS, GO RIGHT AHEAD!

JUST STAY OUT OF MY WAY!

TAKE WHAT YOU WANT FROM THE BODIES. THE ONE HARPY KILLED HAS A ROCKET

I HAVE UNFINISHED BUSINESS AT HOME,

GOOD HUNTING BLACKIE

CUTTING THROUGH THE LEVEL BELOW TO AVOID THE HUMANS HE KNOWS ARE WAITING OUTSIDE HIS HOME, SALEM BEGINS TO SUCCUMB TO THE BLOW HE RECEIVED.

COUGH COUGH

MY HEAD

UHHH

I'VE GOT TO STAY AWAKE

DEAD IF I DON'T.

DEATH

GRRR

HE ARRIVES HOME TO THE SOUNDS OF HEATED NEGOTIATIONS ABOVE

THE SCENT OF HUMANS OUTSIDE

I DON'T BELIEVE YOU!!

PANT PANT

SOB

WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO GET A NICE FURRY MAMMAL FOR ME?

AND DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE 5 MONTHS OF FOOD COUPONS!

AWWK!!!

YOU'RE TRYING TO SELL ME OUT TO THOSE SKIN MONKEYS!

YOU BITCH!!

KURRR..

I, UH, HAVE TO PRAY TO THE CREATORS FOR GUIDANCE

DON'T GO ANYWHERE, HUMANS!

THIS IS RIDICULOUS!!
WE'RE GETTING NOWHERE!
LET ME SHOOT!
NO WAY TO GET A CLEAR SHOT
IF YOU MISS, VASSEY'S DEAD FOR SURE
WE CAN'T STAY HERE MUCH LONGER
HMN
IT'S ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE AGORA'S PEOPLE FIND US. THEN WE MIGHT NOT GET OUT AT ALL
I---I WASN'T!!
I WAS TRYING TO MAKE THEM LET YOU GO!
SHUT UP!
I HAVE TO GET MY GLASSES BACK
THE HUMAN IN THE RED COAT HAS THEM
NOW LISTEN TO ME--
OKAY HUMANS!
THE CREATORS HAVE TOLD ME TO ACCEPT YOUR LAST OFFER!
LET'S SHAKE A TALON ON IT!
OKAY

DON'T ARM UNTIL SHE'S ON THE GROUND

I DON'T WANT TO SCARE HER OFF

UNDERSTOOD

BUT TO THE HUMAN'S HORROR, HARPY DOES NOT SLOW HER DOWNWARD PLUNGE!

DUCK!!

OH SHIT!!

CRACK!

HAH HAH

RUN HUMAN!

AIEEE!!

HELP!!

ARRRGHKK

SORRY RICK

I'M GETTIN' THE HELL OUT OF HERE

IN SUCH A HURRY TO LEAVE, HUMAN?

LET ME TELL YOU---

YOU BEAT ME OUT OF THIS TERRITORY, AND YOU GET TO TELL KOZMINSKI ALL OF THIS, AND GIVE HIM AGORA'S REGARDS

I CATCH YOU, AND I STRING YOUR STEAMING GUTS ALL OVER THE STREET

READY TO RUN?

SO WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO NOW?

WHY DON'T YOU RAPE HER? I WANNA WATCH!

THEN WE CAN SELL HER TO AGORA!

SKREE!!

UNGH

YOU'RE GOING TO GO GET THE BUTCHER

I THINK I HAVE A CONCUSSION

MY HEAD FEELS SPLIT OPEN

HURRR.. THE BUTCHER DON'T WORK CHEAP, AND I'D HAVE TO FLY HIM HERE

THAT'D TAKE ALL OF WHAT WE HAVE

OH NO IT WON'T!

≥GASP!≤

HOW MUCH DO YOU THINK HE'D PAY FOR A HEALTHY YOUNG HUMAN FEMALE?

≥GRUMBLE≤

OKAY, I'M GOING

TRY NOT TO *DIE* BEFORE I GET BACK

IN THE END, *MY* DEAR

I NEVER GET TO HAVE ANY FUN

YOU'LL *WISH* I WAS THE ONE WHO HAD YOU!

ende

GIBSON 2002